

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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2 1. In a server, a method of operation comprising:
3 accepting check in by a client computer at a first point in time to determine if
4 the client computer's software needs to be updated; and
5 providing the client computer with an update task list listing one or more tasks
6 to be performed by the client computer asynchronously at a later point or later points
7 in time to update the client computer's software, if it is determined that the client
8 computer's software is to be updated.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises determining if
2 the client computer's software needs to be updated.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said one or more tasks to be performed by
2 the client computer asynchronously at a later point or later points in time to update
3 the client computer's software comprise re-contacting the server at a later point or
4 later points in times to retrieve one or more software parts.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein said one or more tasks to be performed by
2 the client computer asynchronously at a later point or later points in time to update
3 the client computer's software comprise contacting one or more third part servers at
4 a later point or later points in times to retrieve one or more software parts.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein said one or more tasks to be performed by
2 the client computer asynchronously at a later point or later points in time to update

3 the client computer's software comprise one or more installation tasks to be
4 performed asynchronously at a later point or later points in time upon
5 asynchronously obtaining one or more software parts.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises servicing one
2 or more subsequent asynchronous requests from the client computer for software
3 parts in accordance with the tasks listed the said task list.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein said servicing comprises asking the client
2 computer to retry one or more of the subsequent asynchronous requests for
3 software parts.

1 8. In a client computer, a method of operation comprising:
2 periodically checking in with a server to determine if the client computer's
3 software needs to be updated;
4 receiving from the server an update task list listing one or more tasks to be
5 performed by the client computer asynchronously at a later point or later points in
6 time to update the client computer's software, upon determining the client
7 computer's software needs to be updated; and
8 performing said one or more tasks asynchronously at a later point or later
9 points in time to update the client computer's software.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein said one or more tasks to be performed by
2 the client computer asynchronously at a later point or later points in time to update
3 the client computer's software comprise re-contacting the server at a later point or
4 later points in times to retrieve one or more software parts.

1 10. The method of claim 8, wherein said one or more tasks to be performed by
 2 the client computer asynchronously at a later point or later points in time to update
 3 the client computer's software comprise contacting one or more third part servers at
 4 a later point or later points in times to retrieve one or more software parts.

1 11. The method of claim 8, wherein said one or more tasks to be performed by
 2 the client computer asynchronously at a later point or later points in time to update
 3 the client computer's software comprise one or more installation tasks to be
 4 performed asynchronously at a later point or later points in time upon
 5 asynchronously obtaining one or more software parts.

1 12. The method of claim 8, wherein the method further comprises scheduling
 2 asynchronous performance of said tasks.

1 13. An apparatus comprising:
 2 storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming instructions
 3 designed to accept check in by a client computer at a first point in time to determine
 4 if the client computer's software needs to be updated, and to provide the client
 5 computer with an update task list listing one or more tasks to be performed by the
 6 client computer asynchronously at a later point or later points in time to update the
 7 client computer's software, if it is determined that the client computer's software is to
 8 be updated; and
 9 at least one processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the
 10 programming instructions.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the programming instructions are further
 2 designed to determine whether the client computer's software needs to be updated.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said one or more tasks to be performed
2 by the client computer asynchronously at a later point or later points in time to
3 update the client computer's software comprise contacting one or more third part
4 servers at a later point or later points in times to retrieve one or more software parts.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said one or more tasks to be performed
2 by the client computer asynchronously at a later point or later points in time to
3 update the client computer's software comprise one or more installation tasks to be
4 performed asynchronously at a later point or later points in time upon
5 asynchronously obtaining one or more software parts.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the programming instructions are further
2 designed to service one or more subsequent asynchronous requests from the client
3 computer for software parts in accordance with the tasks listed the said task list.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said programming instructions are further
2 designed to ask the client computer to retry one or more of the subsequent
3 asynchronous requests for software parts.

1 20. A client computer comprising:

2 storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming instructions
 3 designed to periodically check in with a server to determine if the client computer's
 4 software needs to be updated, to receive from the server an update task list listing
 5 one or more tasks to be performed by the client computer asynchronously at a later
 6 point or later points in time to update the client computer's software, upon
 7 determining the client computer's software needs to be updated, and to perform said
 8 one or more tasks asynchronously at a later point or later points in time to update
 9 the client computer's software; and

10 at least one processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the
 11 programming instructions.

1 21. The client computer of claim 20, wherein said one or more tasks to be
 2 performed by the client computer asynchronously at a later point or later points in
 3 time to update the client computer's software comprise re-contacting the server at a
 4 later point or later points in times to retrieve one or more software parts.

1 22. The client computer of claim 20, wherein said one or more tasks to be
 2 performed by the client computer asynchronously at a later point or later points in
 3 time to update the client computer's software comprise contacting one or more third
 4 part servers at a later point or later points in times to retrieve one or more software
 5 parts.

1 23. The client computer of claim 20, wherein said one or more tasks to be
 2 performed by the client computer asynchronously at a later point or later points in
 3 time to update the client computer's software comprise one or more installation
 4 tasks to be performed asynchronously at a later point or later points in time upon
 5 asynchronously obtaining one or more software parts.

